



S2.Lesson 6: Language – Pentecost

Middle School Lesson Plans

Supplies Needed: Journals; Handout; tv or laptop to show movie clip (movie clip link is available at rfour.org/curriculum.html); flip chart/easel with markers; optional: computer with internet access for Mad Gab activity (you can just use the list provided in the lesson plan)

OPENING PRAYER

TELL

- We're going to watch a movie clip from the movie, "Gridiron Gang."
- Two coaches are trying to find a place for their team to play.
- They are having some problems finding a place to play.
- Listen for what finally convinces one of the other coaches.

WATCH MOVIE CLIP: Gridiron Gang

ASK

- So the first three football coaches that they talked to, what were their responses? (No, no and no)
- Why did the fourth coach answer differently? (simple answer: Cuz Jesus said so! Complex answer: both coaches spoke a common language, the language of God as the ultimate authority)

TELL

- We've been talking about language these past few classes.
- This is our last class on the subject.
- Last week we talked about the story of the Tower of Babel and the week before we talked about the story of God creating with words.
- This week, we're going to read the story of Pentecost.
- The story starts after Jesus' resurrection, then he does the ascension thing, and then the story continues. We cut the ascension story from the passage.

READ Scripture excerpts from Acts 1 and 2 from the Message (verses in this excerpt are made up for ease of reference):

1 After the resurrection, while staying with them, Jesus ordered the disciples not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of God the Father. 2 "This," Jesus said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, 3 but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

(passage of time – Jesus ascends – now, 10 days after the ascension...)

4 When the day of Pentecost came, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot 5 along with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as Jesus' brothers 6 were all together in one place and were constantly devoting themselves to prayer. 7 Then suddenly from the sky there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, 8 and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 9 The Holy Spirit was with them and spread among them like wild fire. 10 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. 11 Now there were spiritual Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. And at this sound of the wind the crowd gathered and was bewildered, 12 because each one heard the disciples speaking in the native language of each. 13 Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 14 And how is it that we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power in our own native language? 15 All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" 16 Others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." 17 But others by the end of the day, decided to join the disciples. 3000 joined that day.

ASK

- In verse 3, what does Jesus tell the disciples they will be baptized with? (Holy Spirit)
- In verse 6, what are the disciples doing? (gathered in one place, devoted to praying)
- Do you think what the disciples are doing in verse 6 has anything to do with what happens in verses 7, 8 and 9? (yes!)
- In verse 10, what ability does the Holy Spirit give to the disciples? (to be able to speak in different languages)
- What does speaking other languages allows the disciples to do? (talk to the spiritual Jews who are gathered there from many different countries)
- Verse 17, what is the end result of all this understanding of language? (3000 joined the disciples that day)

COMPARE/CONTRAST Questions

- Is this reminiscent of another story we read recently? (The Tower of Babel)
- In the tower of Babel story, what was the goal of the people? (to build a tower, a city and not be scattered)
- In the tower of Babel story, speaking different languages happened because the people were NOT paying attention to God. In the story of Babel what was the result of not paying attention to God and having their language changed? (they couldn't finish building the tower and the people separated – their goals were not met)
- In verse 11 – 14 of the Pentecost story, what happens due to the disciples paying attention to God and therefore speaking different languages? (the crowd gathers, each individual heard the disciples in their own language, they are amazed)
- So when comparing the two stories, what are the similarities and differences that you see?
- (use flip chart: Make two columns. One column titled: Similarities. Other titled: Differences.)

TELL (to hopefully summarize what is on the flip chart)

- The first story of this session on language was from Genesis.
- God created by speaking, by naming things.

- God then gave this tool to humans, as we read about Adam naming the animals.
- Then we read the story of the Tower of Babel which is a story that shows how when we stop paying attention to God, our ability to use language lessens, and divisions appear between us.
- Now, today, we've read the story of Pentecost, where the disciples are gathered for 10 days devoting themselves to prayer, and to God. And the response is very similar to the Tower of Babel, right? God comes and changes the disciples' language.
- But the result is very different, isn't it?
- In the tower of Babel story the people were scattered.
- In the Pentecost story, the people were brought together.
- So language will be different between us. Whether we speak the same language or not, misunderstandings will happen. But if we're not paying attention to God, then those misunderstandings lead to an end result of separation.
- Whereas when we pay attention to God, then the end result is that people come together, to be part of the community that God calls us to be in.

EXPLAIN ACTIVITY

- We're going to play a game now called Madgab, where words that seem to not make sense at first, if said enough or fast enough or slow enough will form a phrase that does make sense to us.
- We can either do this as a group, or split up into two teams.
- Either way, one of the teachers will be the all-time reader.
- If we split into two teams, then the team that's "up" will get 1 minute to guess the phrase.
- If you don't guess it correctly within the minute, then the other team gets 15 seconds to correctly guess the phrase and then "steal" the point.
- Every correct answer is worth 1 point.
- Teams will take turns.
- If the internet connection works, we can do this activity on the laptop, hooked up to the TV. If not, then we have a list of words below that we can use.

Mad Gab from the Bible <http://www.playmadgabonline.com/>

That Went Eighth Herds Some	The Twenty Third Psalm
Thief Amen	The Famine
Age Are Of Fun Knee	A Jar of Honey
Prints Up Ease	Prince of Peace
Hole Leap Lace	Holy Place
Falls Stock Trends	False Doctrines
Chair Up Him	Cherubim
The Horn Sin Yours Hides	Thorns in your sides
Thief Urge Gin Merry	The Virgin mary
Thick Old Dunk Halves	The Golden Calves
Mice Al Vase Shuns Clothes Sat Tanned	My salvation is close at hand
Sink Prays Says Stew Harking	Sing praises to our King
Tee Antique Riced	The antichrist
Cohen Duel Ike Wise	Go and do likewise

My Kill Land Is Sane Jills
Yore In Hair It Hence
Thick Crews Of Fiction
Jay Cope End Die Sick
Cods Egret Twist Dumb
Fray Grunt Doff Ring
Key Pay Tie Train Honest Hung
Thief Filet Ming Push
Spear Achoo Help Less Sings
Fair Rocking Guff He Chipped
Sack Eye Yes Tacks Call Hector
Caw Dove Fish Rail
Thief Eighth Full Whole He Won
Deal Avarice Firm Eve Hill
Knot Can Thud Orville Bee Oh Pinned
Ace Tone Pill Oh

Michael and his angels
Your inheritance
The crucifixion
Jacob and Isaac
God's secret Wisdom
Fragrant offering
keep a tight reign on his tongue
the flaming bush
Spiritual blessings
Pharaoh, King of Egypt
Zacchaeus Tax Collector
God of Israel
The faithful holy one
Deliver us from evil
Knock and the door will be opened
A stone pillow

Just for fun Mad Gab

Essay Madder Rough Act
Prey Tee Womb Anne
Dutch Egg Cousin Theme Ale
Knee Go She Ate
Tube Row Tacked Ant Surf
Toe Tall Gun Few Shun
Peal Oaf Height
Eighty Part Mints Tore

as a matter of fact
pretty woman
the check is in the mail
negotiate
to protect and serve
total confusion
pillow fight
a department store

TELL

- When we seek God first, when we pay attention to God, then we will be better at using the tool of language.
- We will be better at naming things.
- We will be better at communicating with others.
- And, we will be better, also, at listening to and understanding what others are saying or trying to say.
- We haven't talked very much about how to pay attention to God so that we can use the tool of language better. But we will.
- However, what we did learn from looking at these 3 stories in the scripture and the movie clips and the activities that we did, is that language isn't easy to master, and that in order to use it best, and avoid the pitfalls of using it incorrectly, it's best to ask God for help, even with our everyday conversations.

CLOSING PRAYER